

Interview Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/797,186	NIIMI, AKIKO	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Marvin P. Crenshaw	2854	

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) Marvin P. Crenshaw.

(3) Bob Miller.

(2) Andrew Hirshfeld.

(4) ____.

Date of Interview: 01 March 2006.

Type: a) ☐ Telephonic b) ☐ Video Conference
c) ☒ Personal [copy given to: 1) ☐ applicant 2) ☐ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) ☐ Yes e) ☒ No.
If Yes, brief description: ____.

Claim(s) discussed: 1.

Identification of prior art discussed: Yes.

Agreement with respect to the claims f) ☐ was reached. g) ☒ was not reached. h) ☐ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: Applicant may add figures 7A and 7B, as attached. These figures appear to overcome 112(1) rejection and drawings objection. Applicant argued that Matsumoto et al. does not teach both screen printing and inkjet printing as stated in the office action. Matsumoto et al. will be reviewed and may be withdrawn in view of applicant's argument.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN A NON-EXTENDABLE PERIOD OF THE LONGER OF ONE MONTH OR THIRTY DAYS FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.



ANDREW H. HIRSHFELD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.

Examiner's signature, if required

Summary of Record of Interview Requirements

Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Section 713.04, Substance of Interview Must be Made of Record

A complete written statement as to the substance of any face-to-face, video conference, or telephone interview with regard to an application must be made of record in the application whether or not an agreement with the examiner was reached at the interview.

Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1.133 Interviews

Paragraph (b)

In every instance where reconsideration is requested in view of an interview with an examiner, a complete written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action must be filed by the applicant. An interview does not remove the necessity for reply to Office action as specified in §§ 1.111, 1.135. (35 U.S.C. 132)

37 CFR §1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.

All business with the Patent or Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

The action of the Patent and Trademark Office cannot be based exclusively on the written record in the Office if that record is itself incomplete through the failure to record the substance of interviews.

It is the responsibility of the applicant or the attorney or agent to make the substance of an interview of record in the application file, unless the examiner indicates he or she will do so. It is the examiner's responsibility to see that such a record is made and to correct material inaccuracies which bear directly on the question of patentability.

Examiners must complete an Interview Summary Form for each interview held where a matter of substance has been discussed during the interview by checking the appropriate boxes and filling in the blanks. Discussions regarding only procedural matters, directed solely to restriction requirements for which interview recordation is otherwise provided for in Section 812.01 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, or pointing out typographical errors or unreadable script in Office actions or the like, are excluded from the interview recordation procedures below. Where the substance of an interview is completely recorded in an Examiners Amendment, no separate Interview Summary Record is required.

The Interview Summary Form shall be given an appropriate Paper No., placed in the right hand portion of the file, and listed on the "Contents" section of the file wrapper. In a personal interview, a duplicate of the Form is given to the applicant (or attorney or agent) at the conclusion of the interview. In the case of a telephone or video-conference interview, the copy is mailed to the applicant's correspondence address either with or prior to the next official communication. If additional correspondence from the examiner is not likely before an allowance or if other circumstances dictate, the Form should be mailed promptly after the interview rather than with the next official communication.

The Form provides for recordation of the following information:

- Application Number (Series Code and Serial Number)
- Name of applicant
- Name of examiner
- Date of interview
- Type of interview (telephonic, video-conference, or personal)
- Name of participant(s) (applicant, attorney or agent, examiner, other PTO personnel, etc.)
- An indication whether or not an exhibit was shown or a demonstration conducted
- An identification of the specific prior art discussed
- An indication whether an agreement was reached and if so, a description of the general nature of the agreement (may be by attachment of a copy of amendments or claims agreed as being allowable). Note: Agreement as to allowability is tentative and does not restrict further action by the examiner to the contrary.
- The signature of the examiner who conducted the interview (if Form is not an attachment to a signed Office action)

It is desirable that the examiner orally remind the applicant of his or her obligation to record the substance of the interview of each case. It should be noted, however, that the Interview Summary Form will not normally be considered a complete and proper recordation of the interview unless it includes, or is supplemented by the applicant or the examiner to include, all of the applicable items required below concerning the substance of the interview.

A complete and proper recordation of the substance of any interview should include at least the following applicable items:

- 1) A brief description of the nature of any exhibit shown or any demonstration conducted,
- 2) an identification of the claims discussed,
- 3) an identification of the specific prior art discussed,
- 4) an identification of the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed, unless these are already described on the Interview Summary Form completed by the Examiner,
- 5) a brief identification of the general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the examiner,
(The identification of arguments need not be lengthy or elaborate. A verbatim or highly detailed description of the arguments is not required. The identification of the arguments is sufficient if the general nature or thrust of the principal arguments made to the examiner can be understood in the context of the application file. Of course, the applicant may desire to emphasize and fully describe those arguments which he or she feels were or might be persuasive to the examiner.)
- 6) a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed, and
- 7) if appropriate, the general results or outcome of the interview unless already described in the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner.

Examiners are expected to carefully review the applicant's record of the substance of an interview. If the record is not complete and accurate, the examiner will give the applicant an extendable one month time period to correct the record.

Examiner to Check for Accuracy

If the claims are allowable for other reasons of record, the examiner should send a letter setting forth the examiner's version of the statement attributed to him or her. If the record is complete and accurate, the examiner should place the indication, "Interview Record OK" on the paper recording the substance of the interview along with the date and the examiner's initials.

PATENT APPLICATION

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R §1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
TECHNOLOGY CENTER ART UNIT 2854**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Akiko NIIMI

Group Art Unit: 2854

Application No.: 10/797,186

Examiner: M. CRENSHAW

Filed: March 11, 2004

Docket No.: 119077

For: PRINTING DEVICE, PRINTING SYSTEM AND PRINTING METHOD

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION UNDER 37 CFR §1.116

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the November 2, 2005, Office Action, the period for reply being extended to March 2, 2006, by a Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, please consider the following:

Amendments to the Specification;

Amendments to the Claims as reflected in the listing of claims;

Amendments to the Drawings include an attached new sheet; and

Remarks.

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

According to this configuration, by providing a screen plate that fits detachably with the supporting face of a printing medium support member on which the print medium is supported, it is possible to reduce the size of the printing device, as compared with a device in which a plurality of screen plates are provided in parallel fashion in the direction of travel of a conveyor belt. Moreover, if the image printed on the printing medium by means of a screen plate is the same size as the image printed on the printing medium by emission of ink from an ink emission section, then since the screen plate fits detachably to the supporting face of the printing medium supporting member, the images printed onto the printing medium can be mutually superimposed accurately, simply by means of aligning the positions of the image formed by the screen plate and the image formed by the ink emission section, by taking the supporting face as a reference. Therefore, special positional alignment tasks are not required, it being ~~sufficiently~~sufficient simply to fit the screen plate onto the supporting face of the printing medium supporting member.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 1 is a front view showing the general configuration of an ink-jet printer relating to one embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a process diagram giving a schematic illustration of the printing process according to the present embodiment, from the step of obtaining original image data to the step of manufacturing a screen;

Fig. 3 is a process diagram giving a schematic illustration of the printing process according to the present embodiment, from the step of setting a fabric on a platen to the end of printing;

Fig. 4 is a block diagram showing the configuration of ink determining means;

Fig. 5 is a cross-sectional view showing a screen plate according to the present embodiment, in a fitted state; and

Fig. 6 is a cross-sectional view showing a screen plate according to a modification, in a fitted state- state;

Fig. 7A is a representation of a modification showing an interlocking groove allowing adjustability of the screen plate; and

Fig. 7B is a view of a spring adjusting mechanism of the modification.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 21, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In the initial state, the platen 12 moves in a forward direction (towards the reader in the case of Fig. 1), the ~~operators~~ operator sets the fabric on the platen 12, and when a printing start command is issued, the platen 12 is moved in the rearward direction (away from the reader in Fig. 1). By means of the platen 12 being moved intermittently in the forward direction, whilst the ink-jet head 5 is moved reciprocatingly between each movement of the platen, printing is carried out onto the fabric. When printing has been completed, the platen 12 moves back to its initial position on the front side. The operator then removes the fabric from the platen 12.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 19, line 25, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Thereupon, in step 7, the screen plate 60 manufactured in step 5 is fitted ~~into~~ onto the platen 12. Details of the fitting structure are described below, but essentially, the screen

plate 60 comprises a frame 62. The screen plate 60 is designed such that together with the frame 62, it forms a lid shape which covers the upper face 12a of the platen 12. The screen plate 60 fits ~~into~~onto the platen 12 in such a manner that the fabric 50 is sandwiched between the screen plate 60 and the platen 12. Thereupon, the operator performs screen printing by coating white ink onto the image forming section 61 of the screen plate 60.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 25, line 17, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Moreover, Fig. 6 shows a cross-sectional view of a screen plate according to a modification example, in a fitted state. In this modification, the frame of the screen plate 60 is constituted by first frame ~~members 64~~member 64 and second frame members 65. The pair of second frame members 65 which form two opposing sides (the same may apply to the other two opposing sides) are formed slidably on the lower faces of the first ~~frame members 64~~member 64 in such a manner that the distance L increases or decreases. This sliding action may be achieved by means of interlocking ~~grooves~~grooves 66 (Fig. 7A), or the like, on the contact faces of the respective frame members 64, 65, for example, a sliding force being applied by means of a ~~spring~~spring 68 (Fig. 7B), or the like, in such a manner that the distance L contracts.

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A printing ~~device~~device, comprising:
a printing medium supporting member having a supporting face for supporting a printing medium;
a screen plate used during screen printing fitting detachably onto said supporting face in a state where the printing medium is sandwiched between said screen plate and said supporting face of said printing medium supporting member; and
an ink-jet head for performing ink-jet printing onto said printing medium that has been subjected to screen-printing by using said screen plate, in a state where said printing medium is supported on said supporting face of said printing medium supporting member.
2. (Currently Amended) The printing device according to claim 1, further comprising ink color determining means for setting the color of the ink used in printing by using said screen plate to a lighter color than the ink used in printing by said ink-jet head.
3. (Currently Amended) The printing device according to claim 2, wherein said ink color determining means set the color of the ink used in printing by using said screen plate to white.
4. (Original) The printing device according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of said screen plates of different types are prepared, each having a different size in accordance with the thickness of the printing medium, in such a manner that said screen plate fits onto said supporting face in a state with substantially no gaps with respect to the printing medium.
5. (Original) The printing device according to claim 1, wherein said screen plate or said printing medium supporting member comprises an adjusting mechanism whereby said

screen plate can be fitted onto said supporting face in a state with substantially no gaps with respect to the printing medium.

6. (Original) The printing device according to claim 1, wherein said screen plate is of substantially the same shape as said supporting face.

7. (Original) The printing device according to claim 1, wherein the printing medium is a fabric.

8. (Previously Presented) A printing system comprising:
the printing device according to claim 1; and
ink color determining means for setting the color of the ink used in printing by said screen plate to a lighter color than the ink used in printing by said ink-jet head.

9. (Currently Amended) The printing system according to claim 8, wherein said ink color determining means sets the color of the ink used in printing ~~by using~~ said screen plate to white.

10. (Currently Amended) A printing method comprising the steps of:
screen printing onto a printing medium ~~by using~~ a screen plate; and
ink-jet printing by emitting ink of a darker color than the ink used in said screen printing step, onto the screen printed region, from an ink-jet head.

11. (Original) The printing method according to claim 10, wherein the ink used in said screen printing step is white in color.

12. (Currently Amended) A printing ~~device~~device, comprising:
a printing medium supporting member having a supporting face for supporting a printing medium;

a screen plate used during screen printing ~~fitted detachably onto~~ said supporting face in a state where the printing medium is sandwiched between said screen plate and said supporting face of said printing medium supporting member;

an ink-jet head for performing ink-jet printing onto said printing medium, that has been subjected to screen-printing ~~by~~using said screen plate, in a state where said printing medium is supported on said supporting face of said printing medium supporting member, and a frame, wherein the screen plate together with the frame have a lock-and-key relationship with the printing medium supporting member.

13. (Previously Presented) The printing device according to claim 12, wherein at least one of the screen plate and the frame includes at least one of a projection and a groove, and the printing medium supporting member includes the other of the projection and the groove such that when the screen plate and the frame are detachably connected to the printing medium supporting member the at least one projection connects with the at least one groove to lock the screen plate in position relative to the printing medium supporting member.

14. (Currently Amended) The printing device according to claim 13, wherein the screen plate is ~~integrally~~integrally connected to the frame.

15. (Previously Presented) The printing device according to claim 13, wherein the screen plate is detachably attached to the frame.

16. (New) The printing device according to claim 1, wherein said screen plate comprises a first frame member and at least a pair of second frame members, said frame members of said at least one pair of second frame members opposing one another and slidably engaged with an underside of said first frame member by interlocking grooves.

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached new drawing sheet adds Figs. 7A and 7B.

Attachment: New Sheet

FIG. 7A

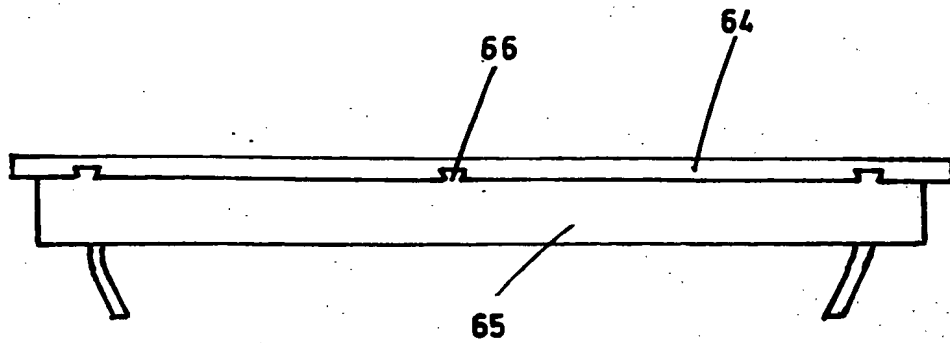


FIG. 7B

